



H.R. 2515 – Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Act

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 2515 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Dean Heller (R-NV) on May 24, 2007. The House Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill to be reported as amended by unanimous consent on March 12, 2008.

H.R. 2515 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on March 31, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 2515 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program and to enter into an agreement with Arizona, California, and Nevada to produce a plan for the use of water from the Lower Colorado River for the creation and maintenance of multi-species habitats. The bill authorizes such sums as are necessary.

BACKGROUND

The Lower Colorado Region is nearly 202,000 square miles in size, and covers portions of southern California, southern Nevada, southwest Utah, western New Mexico, and most of Arizona. Many endangered species and native wildlife inhabit the Lower Colorado Region, and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation protects and monitors these wildlife.

The purposes of the Multi-Species Conservation Program include protecting the environmental and water conditions in the Lower Colorado River, monitoring the conditions of threatened and endangered species in the Region and helping to ensure their continued survival. The Program was developed over a nine year period between 1996 and 2005 and was implemented in April of 2005. The Program seeks to create habitats suitable for sustaining species that are native to the region and listed as endangered over a 50 year period.

[Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program](#)

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the program would cost approximately \$70 million to implement over the next five years and several hundred million dollars over the 50-year life of the program.

[CBO cost estimate for H.R. 2515](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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